Permission to international airlines to operate from Trivandrum

718. SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons for which Government are not allowing international airlines, other than Air India, to operate through Trivandrum;

(b) whether there is going to be an explosion of tourism in the next decades; if so, whether Government would considered changing their policy for fuller exploitation of the tourist potential of Kerala; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) to (c) Government have not allowed large scale international operations to Trivandrum because Trivandrum has not been declared as an international airport and only limited international operations are permissible from Trivandrum.

Tourism infrastructure in the country

719. SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) to what extent the country has been able to attract the fast increasing flow of international tourists, giving details for the last three years;

(b) what are the plans under consideration for creation of adequate infrastructure to receive tourists whose quantum is expected to double by the end of this country; and

(c) what are the details of steps taken in this regard by different States, with the cooperation of the centre?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) The number of foreign tourists who visited India during the last 3 years are given below:

Year	Number (including the nationals of Pakistan and Bangladesh)
1985	1,259,384
1986	1,451,076
1987	1,484,290

(b) and (c) Plans for the development of tourism infrastructure is generally taken up by State Governments through the assistance of Central Government. This includes construction of Yatri Niwases, construction of Yatrikas at pilgrim centres, development of beach resorts, improvment of facilities for skiing, mountaineering, trekking and adventure tourism augmentation of transport facilities, provision of way side facilities on highways and development of tourist facilities along travel circuits.

Employment potential of tourism industry

720. SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that tourism is going to be the most important industry in the world by the turn of the Century with big employment potential;

(b) the number of foreign tourists which India received during the last five years year-wise; and

(c) the number of people engaged in different aspects of tourism industry in India State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) Tourism has already become one of the major industries of the world in terms of foreign exchange earning. The industry is also having large employment potential.

(b) The number of foreign tourists who visisted India during the last 5 years

are as given below:

Year	Number (including Nationals of Pakistan & Bangladesh)
1983	1,304,976
1984	1,193,752
1985	1,259,384
1986	1,451,076
1987	1,484,290

(c) The number of people engaged directly in different aspects of tourism industry is estimated to be over four million during 1984-85. State-wise break up of this estimate is not available.

Appointment of Welcome Travels as G. S. A. at London by Air India

721. SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA:
SHRI PARVATHAENI UPENDRA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have appointed Welcome Travels of the General Sales Agency to act as the Air-India's agents in London;

(b) whether the selection of this Agency was made through poublic tenders; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefore and whether a team of officers of the Enforcement Directorate of Government of India and Director of Vigilance of Air India visited London in July 1988 to enquire into this selection of the Agency as reported in Hindustan Times dated the 6th October, 1988?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AIVATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL: (a) and (b) M/s. Gimvale Limited, trading as Welcome Travels, was appointed as General Sales Agent of Air India at London with effect from 1st November, 1988, after following the established procedure. Air India does not appoint General Sales Agents through public tenders.

(c) Director, Vigilance of Air India did not visit London in July, 1988. However, he had visited London in June, 1988 to review the security arrangements at Heathroow Airport and other matters related to his charge. Enforcement Directorate of the Ministry of Finance have also confirmed that no team of officers visited London in July, 1988 to enquire into the appointment of the General Sales Agent of Air India.

Visa of Ajitabh Bachchan

722. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:
SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Swiss authorties had denied a resident visa to Shri Ajitabh Bachchan in August, 1987, as reported in India Today of 30 September, 1988; if so, on what grounds;

(b) whether it is also a fact that one cannot take up job in Switzerland without a resident visa; and

(c) whether Acropharma (Switzerland) had offered employment to him in February, 1986 and that he had accepted the same on the 28th February, 1986; if so, whether he actually took up the job there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (PROF. K. K TEWARI): (a) The Government have no information about the denial of a Swiss resident visa to Shri Ajitabh Bachchan during August, 1987.

(b) This concerns a foreign Government.

(c) Yes, Sir. M/s. Arcopharma, S.A. Switzerland had offered an employment as a Consultant to Shri Ajitabh Bachchan and he accepted the offer and started rendering consultancy services w.e.f. 28.2.86.